

18 September 2012

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam

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NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE TO ROAD SAFETY HARDWARE TESTING CRITERIA

In May of this year we wrote to industry outlining our intention to adopt the AASHTO Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH-1) as the nominal standard for road safety hardware systems installed on the State highway network. This document supersedes the National Cooperative Highway Research Project Report 350 (NCHRP350). The feedback we received at that time confirmed our view that the industry would accept this change without significant concerns.

The NZ Transport Agency is satisfied that the revised test vehicles identified in the MASH-1 document are representative of the New Zealand vehicle fleet and that the testing criteria are appropriate for New Zealand conditions.

Therefore, from 1 November 2012, MASH-1 will be the nominal standard for testing of road safety hardware to be installed on the State highway network. The current review of NZ Transport Agency Specification M23 (Road Safety Barrier Systems) will reflect this change and other relevant documentation will be progressively updated.

Unless otherwise stated in M23 (as published on the NZ Transport Agency website and updated periodically), all highway safety hardware currently accepted under the NCHRP Report 350 criteria does not need to be retested to MASH criteria; may remain in place; and may continue to be manufactured and installed, i.e. is to be "grandfathered". However, all new hardware that is developed or significant variants of existing systems must be tested and evaluated according to MASH-1.

As a supplier/designer in the New Zealand market, we would encourage you to reassess your hardware and take this opportunity to retire any outdated systems and support the NZ Transport Agency in raising the performance standard of road safety hardware in line with our Safer Journeys strategy and Safe System philosophy.

Please address any queries in relation to this notification to the undersigned.

Yours sincerely



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